

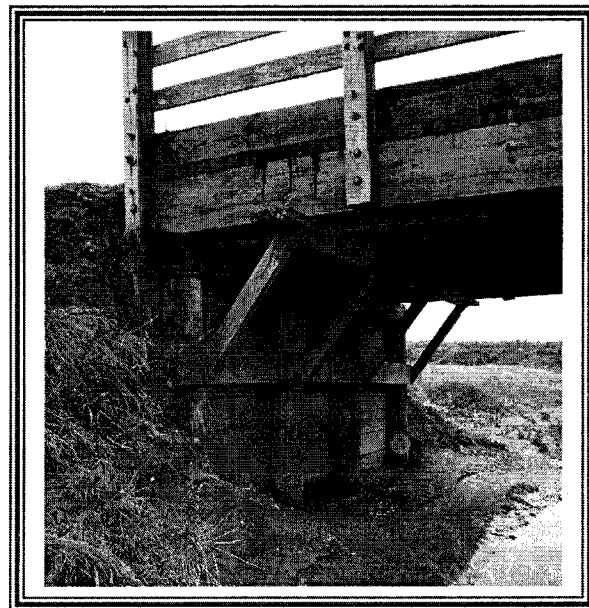
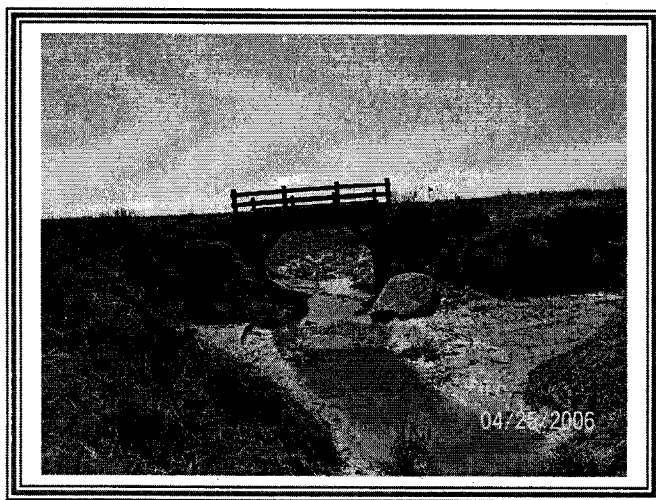
Montana Legislature's Joint  
Long-Range Planning Subcommittee  
Hearing Testimony Handout  
Treasure State Endowment Program

EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 4/2/07  
HB 11

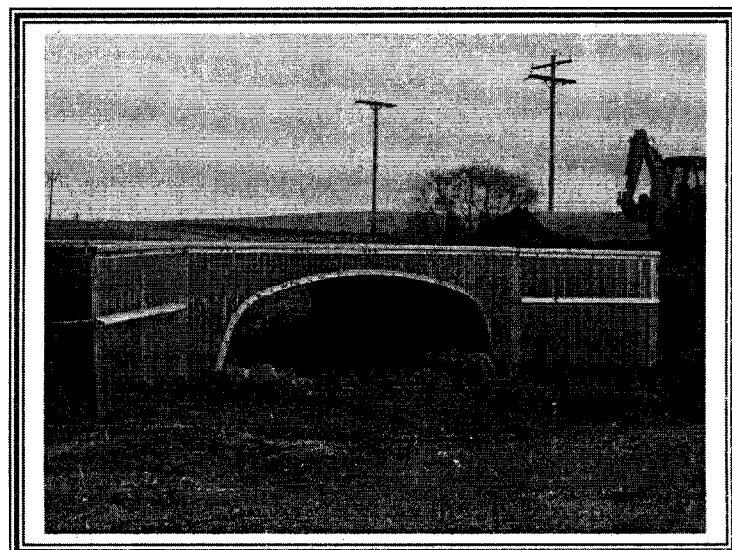
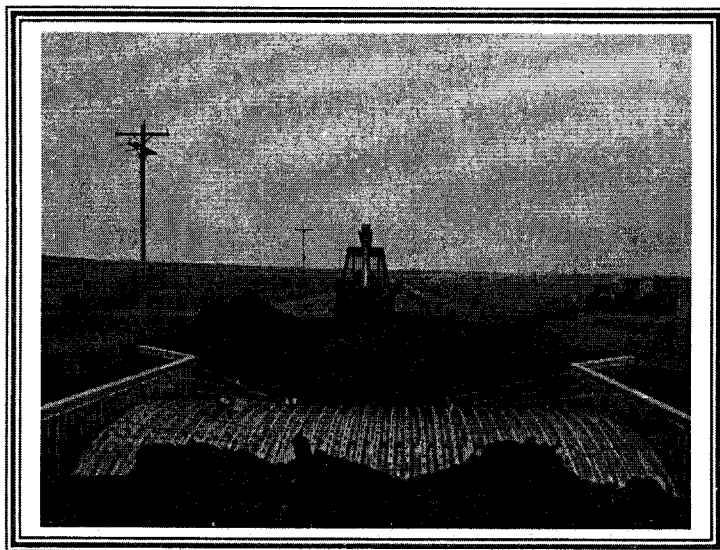
★ Custer County ★  
★ Bridge System Improvements ★

Page No. 245  
Rank No. 45  
January 2007

**Trail Creek Bridge - Existing Conditions**



**Proposed Trail Creek Bridge Replacement Structure**



# Current Status

The MDOC staff reports that the \$63,750 requested by Custer County would not be able to be funded due to the projected TSEP funds available for the 2009 biennium. The staff report indicates that the project received the highest rating for Priority 1 (Project solves urgent and serious public health and safety problems.). The pictures on the cover show that this structure is in very bad structural shape.

The project was rated a 2 for Priority 4 (Planning and effective long-term planning). This is Custer County's first attempt at obtaining TSEP funding for its bridge program but they have been trying to get a handle on maintaining the 52 bridges they have in the county. They have struggled to develop a funding mechanism that would allow for a structured and orderly replacement of their bridges. The TSEP program will be a vital component of that program.

The review staff rated Priorities 3 and 4 low because the county didn't have a comprehensive examination of the entire bridge system, have not adopted County bridge standards and didn't have an explanation of the formal process in selecting Trail Creek Bridge for the TSEP funding.

The County originally looked at three structures to replace based on the Road Departments experience. The amount of matching funds for those structures was a problem and then during the public input process the Trail Creek Bridge became the priority structure because:

- a. The serious condition of the structure
- b. The fact the County had purchased the materials previously and that money would count towards the matching dollar requirement.
- c. The fact the TSEP funds will allow the County to hire a contractor to install the bridge.

The County is currently pursuing local funding mechanisms to fund and develop a comprehensive Capital Improvement Program, adopting a set of Bridges standards and working with the MDT to inspect the 1000 foot Tusler Bridge. These actions will all help the County on future TSEP applications

## Closing Comments

In closing we appreciate the time afforded us by the Committee to hear our comments on Custer County's proposed bridge project. The scope of the project was evolving right up to the application deadline due to safety issues, financial concerns and maximum utilization of existing materials. We would request the committee to consider funding the \$63,750 requested by Custer County should additional funds become available. Custer County will continue to develop a program to analyze, prioritize and fund bridge rehabilitation project to promote the safety of the motorists utilizing the bridges in their count and will include the TSEP funding in that program.